

note
in B.R.
not from

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WARREN SOUGHT KENNEDY PHOTOS

Article Depicts Panel's Bid
to See Autopsy Pictures

Despite instructions from Chief Justice Earl Warren, only a perfunctory effort was made by the Warren Commission to obtain from Robert F. Kennedy the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy taken after his assassination, according to an article in the April 6 issue

of The Saturday Evening Post. Although Mr. Warren instructed the commissions chief counsel, J. Lee Rankin, to try to arrange for a look at the photographs, "the commission never saw them," the article says.

David Wise, a former reporter for The New York Herald Tribune, wrote the article, "Secret Evidence on the Kennedy Assassination," after the declassification of seven of the 11 transcripts of closed commission sessions that are in the National Archives. The magazine goes on sale tomorrow.

Mr. Wise states that a "prize K. G. B. [Soviet security police]

defector" was interviewed in connection with the investigation of the President's murder. The author suggests that a member of the Soviet Presidium may have intervened to permit Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin, to remain in the Soviet Union, where he had applied for citizenship in 1959.

At a meeting of the commission April 30, 1964, Mr. Wise writes, Mr. Rankin argued that the commission faced a "serious problem" as a result of testimony by Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas that he could not have been hit by the same bullet that struck the President in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The commission ultimately found

that both men had been hit by the same bullet.

Mr. Rankin is quoted as saying that the autopsy pictures "just have never been developed because of the family's wishes."

"And I think the Attorney General [Robert Kennedy] would make them available now—although they were denied to us because he said that he didn't think there was a sufficient showing of our need," Mr. Rankin was quoted as saying.

Mr. Warren is then said to have told Mr. Rankin to arrange for the pictures to be seen.

"Well," the Chief Justice is quoted as saying, "I think you

can work that out, Lee, to do that, but without putting these pictures in our record. We don't want those in our record."

John J. McCloy, another commission member, reportedly said, "Certainly not," and Mr. Warren is said to have commented, "It would make a morbid thing for all time to come."

Mr. Wise observes: "There is no further mention of the autopsy photographs in the declassified transcripts. The commission never saw them."

The K.G.B. defector is identified as Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko, who, according to the State Department, requested asylum in the United States in February, 1964. Mr. Wise says that

Mr. Nosenko was interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on March 4, 1964, for the Warren inquiry.

Mr. Wise observes that the Warren report notes that the K.G.B. "undoubtedly investigated Oswald as fully as possible" when he arrived in Moscow.

Mr. Wise writes: "An internal staff memo of the Warren commission, dated March 9, 1964, says that, according to Nosenko, 'Oswald was an extremely poor shot and it was necessary for persons who accompanied him on hunts to provide him with game.'"

Mr. Wise notes that one

commission staff member who has read the Nosenko file declares it to be of little value.

The member of the Soviet Presidium who may have helped Oswald is identified as Yekaterina Alekseyevna Furtseva, since downgraded in the Soviet hierarchy.

Mr. Wise says a title in the archives shows that Allen W. Dulles, former Director of Central Intelligence, a member of the commission, filed a memorandum concerning "assistance rendered Oswald" by Miss Furtseva. The title alone does not make clear whether Oswald actually received assistance.